

Library News

a newsletter from the JAMES A. GIBSON LIBRARY

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The Learning Commons and More

Margaret Grove, University Librarian

If you have visited the Library recently or walked through the south Thistle corridor, you will know that the Learning Commons renovation project is well underway. Work will soon shift from demolition to construction, and it will be possible to watch the Learning Commons take shape through the corridor windows. Once completed in early 2008 (May is the projected occupancy date), the Learning Commons will serve as the most unique and important hub of informal learning on the entire campus. Full details about the project are available at <http://www.library.brocku.ca/learningcommons/>. In the meantime, the Library is doing everything possible to maintain service levels and minimize confusion during the construction period.

The Library has also expanded its collection of digital resources over the last few months in order to meet growing needs in research and graduate studies. These latest acquisitions add breadth of coverage from a discipline perspective, and significantly increase the variety of scholarly resources available to faculty and students by providing theses, e-books, primary texts, data, e-journals, reports and more. There are too many titles to mention, but some of the most significant resources include:

- **ProQuest Dissertations and Theses**, the database of record for

doctoral and master's theses, providing the full text of titles from 1997 on, including theses by Brock graduate students.

- **Journal Citation Reports**, a recognized authority for evaluating the impact and influence of journals in the global research community.
- **Hoover's Online**, a database of news and information on companies, industries and executives from around the world.
- **International Medieval Bibliography**, an index to journal articles, conference proceedings and essays on all subjects relating to the Middle Ages.
- **Oxford Scholarship Online**, a cross-searchable collection of over 1200 scholarly e-books.
- Journal backfile collections from **Blackwell** and **Springer**.
- **Historical New York Times (1851-2003)** and **Times of London Digital Archive (1785-1985)**.
- **Early American Imprints, Evans: 1639-1800**, a comprehensive database of primary texts.
- **ICPSR**, the world's largest archive of digital social science data.

If you enjoy classical music, you may want to explore two of the Library's streaming audio databases, **Naxos Music Library** and **Classical Music Library**. All of the resources mentioned above, and many more, are accessible from the Library home page.



Last fall, the Library launched a pilot project using MSN messenger to answer reference questions. The success of this project led to the creation of the Library's new "Live Help!" service, which began in September. The new software has some advantages over the

previous system in terms of its accessibility to all library patrons (no MSN account is required) and greater visibility on the Library's website.

"Live Help!" is staffed by librarians and reference assistants Monday through Friday, 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The service is simple to use: click on the Live Help! icon and type the question in the pop-up dialogue box that appears. The response to "Live Help!" has been excellent; in October 2007, nearly 300 questions were answered, compared with 30 questions during October of 2006.

Live Help! is provided by Crafty Syntax, an open source (free) software available at <http://www.craftysyntax.com>.

New Appointment



Along with the many changes that are taking place in the James A. Gibson Library this autumn, you will find that the Circulation Desk is now "Loan Services" and that

this department now includes circulation, reserves, and interlibrary loan services. You will also see a new face behind the Loan Services desk. During the summer, Robert (Bob) Rossini retired from his position as Head of Circulation and, in September, Ian Gordon was appointed to the new position of Head, Loan Services.

Ian has been with the Library for twenty years, serving as a subject specialist librarian for the Sciences. Ian is also actively involved in campus activities through committee work and his ongoing support for the Brock University women's ice hockey team. In the winter term, Ian will return as subject specialist for Mathematics, Physics, and Chemistry.

Ian and the Loan Services staff are looking forward to serving the Brock community in the new Learning Commons. As the department develops, new staff and students are being trained to complement existing staff in order to enhance services to students, faculty, staff, and the wider community. You may reach Ian by phone at (905) 688-5550 x3727 or through email at igordon@brocku.ca. When Ian is not in the Library, he may be found on his bike, in the pool, or enthusiastically supporting Badger Athletics!

Where is everything?

Computers/Printers	Floor
Public Computers	5, 6, 7
Laptop Loan	2
Printers	6, 7

Services	
Reserves	2
Research Help Desk	6
Change (\$\$)	2
Photocopiers	2, 5, 6, 7, 8
Copy and print card dispenser	2, 5

Study Space	
Quiet study carrels	5, 6, 7, 8
Group study tables	5, 6, 7
Silent study carrels	9, 10

Collections	
New books display	6
Books, QE 515.5 – QK 46.5	7
Reference collection	6
Print journals*	6, 7

*Selected titles; remainder in storage until 2008

Library Workshops for Faculty

Interested in learning more about Library resources and services? Attend one of our Workshops for Faculty! These 80 minute, hands-on, practical sessions are held on Wednesdays throughout November and December. We'll bring the coffee!

Register at: http://www.library.brocku.ca/faculty_workshops/

Impact Factors and Journal Citation Reports
Wednesday, November 14, 10am
Are you choosing a vessel for publication? Do you want to know how often a particular journal is cited compared to other journals in the field or which are the "hottest journals"? In this hands-on session geared towards all disciplines, learn how ISI's Journal Citation Reports, Cited Reference searches, and Google Scholar can provide you with some very useful information for grants and publishing.
Location: e-classroom (TH 253)
Instructors: Marcie Jacklin, Jennifer Thiessen

ARTstor
Wednesday, November 21, 10am
ARTstor is a repository for over 500, 000 digital images, including photographs, paintings, architecture, sculpture and more. Come to this session to learn how to use images with lectures or enhance presentations.
Location: e-classroom (TH 253)
Instructors: Laurie Morrison, Keri Cronin

Government e- Documents
Wednesday, November 28, 10am
This workshop will provide an overview of how

to access Canadian federal and Ontario provincial electronic documents. Areas to be covered include parliamentary, departmental and justice related web resources. Come and improve your skills in using digital government documents!
Location: e-classroom (TH 253)
Instructor: Kevin Manuel

Archives and Special Collections
Wednesday, December 5, 10am
Looking for primary records or rare books for your research? Discover strategies and databases that can help you find these unique resources and learn what materials are available at Brock University. (Coffee will not be served at this session).
Location: Special Collections, 10th floor (Library)
Instructor: David Sharron, Head of Special Collections and Archives

Search Alerts and Journal Alerts
Wednesday, December 12, 2pm
Do your research while you sleep! Keep up with journal articles in your research area by having your favourite searches and tables of contents of journals sent to your inbox or feed reader.
Location: e-classroom (TH 253)
Instructors: Justine Cotton, Jennifer Thiessen

For more information on these and other workshops, visit the Library website or contact your subject specialist.

Literary Prizes

The season for book awards is in full swing and you can find award winners and nominees for several top literary prizes in the Brock Library. The winner of the Man Booker Prize for Fiction in 2007 is Irish author Anne Enright for her novel, *The Gathering*. Also included in the Booker shortlist were Nicola Barker's *Darkmans*, Mohsin Hamid's *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*, Lloyd Jones' *Mister Pip*, Ian McEwan's *On Chesil Beach*, and Indra Sinha's *Animal's People*.

In Canadian fiction, the Scotiabank Giller Prize was awarded to Elizabeth Hay's *Late Nights on Air*. The Giller shortlist for 2007 included Michael Ondaatje's *Divisadero*, Daniel Poliquin's *A Secret Between Us*, M.G. Vassanji's *The Assassin's Song*, and Alissa York's *Effigy*.

New! Library Website for Faculty


Wondering what the Library can do for you? The Library has created a new webpage highlighting some important library services and resources for faculty members, including:

- Information on high impact journals
- A list of subject specialists
- How to set up journal alerts
- Registration for upcoming faculty workshops

Visit this new portal by clicking on *For Faculty* in the menu bar on the left of the Library website.

SPOTLIGHT ON RESEARCH: Using ARTstor

Dr. Keri Cronin, Department of Visual Arts
Interviewed by: Laurie Morrison

 Dr. Keri Cronin is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Visual Arts here at Brock. She uses ARTstor, a digital image repository, extensively in her teaching. Recently, I sat down with Keri to ask her about how ARTstor serves her teaching and research needs.

Can you talk about what you use ARTstor for?

I find ARTstor to be useful for both teaching and research. I rely quite heavily on the digital images for classroom presentation -- in particular for my first year context course, "Introduction to Visual Culture," and the courses I teach on nineteenth-century art history.

Are the images from ARTstor available to use in the classroom?

Yes, it is possible to download the images from ARTstor and put them into a PowerPoint presentation. However, I prefer to use ARTstor's presentation software (the "Offline Image Viewer" or OIV) to present the visual material during my lectures. In this way, the images retain the highest quality. I like how this presentation software gives instructors the capability to build presentations that contain a

mix of images drawn from ARTstor and images drawn from personal digital image collections.

ARTstor is compatible with other digital images?

Yes, I use ARTstor in conjunction with other websites and resources that provide access to digital images for educational purposes. For instance, when I teach Canadian art history I often turn to CyberMuse, the online initiative developed by the National Gallery of Canada, as a visual image resource to supplement the images I've found on ARTstor. Again, I find the OIV software a very good way to manage a presentation that is built from images which have been drawn from a number of different sources.

How is ARTstor valuable to your students?

In my classes, I have my students become familiar with ARTstor through tailored research projects. There are two main reasons I do this. First, it gives them access to a range of images that are much broader than any single art history textbook can provide. Second, this type of assignment gives students an opportunity to develop their research skills and learn more about library resources available to them at Brock.

How does ARTstor address your scholarly and research needs for digital images?

In terms of research and scholarship, ARTstor

has a fairly good collection of images relevant to my research needs (history of photography, public gardens, visual culture in the history of science), and I often find images through the ARTstor database which complement images I'm already using for my research from other sources. The other thing I find useful is browsing the ARTstor collections using key search terms from my research projects -- particularly in the early stages of a new project -- as the textual information provided with the images returned in my search often help me to determine which archives and museums would be useful for me to visit to conduct more in-depth, on-site research. I'm also quite excited about the new "Images for Academic Publishing" (IAP) program that ARTstor has just launched in conjunction with the Metropolitan Museum of Art. I think this marks an important shift in the ways in which scholars collaborate with institutions for academic research and publishing.

ARTstor contains over 500, 000 images and is available to Brock faculty, staff, and students through the Library Databases page. To learn more about ARTstor, attend our workshop on November 21st (details above) or contact your subject specialist.

'Spotlight on Research' highlights the use of library resources by Brock researchers. If you would like to be featured in this column, please contact Justine Cotton.



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